

News Release



**Arkansas Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation installs artificial native bat habitats

Voluntary mitigation project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Little Rock, Ark. — May 11, 2018 — Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) recently installed 12 artificial bat habitats in four different sites in north Arkansas.

According to Stephen Cain, manager of environmental compliance for AECC, the artificial habitat consists of 12, 20-ft. wooden poles fitted with Branden Bark and bat guano catchers.

The areas include Kings River Preserve near Berryville, Slippery Hollow Natural Area near Dodd City, Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near Pochontas and private property near Blackwell. AECC worked with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and the United States Wildlife and Fish Service on the projects.

AECC funded the Branden Bark sets for nine structures, pole delivery to the four sites and pole installation at the four sites. The poles were donated by McFarland Cascade and the remaining three Branden Bark sets were supplied by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. The project was managed by Copperhead Environmental Consulting.

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) delivered the poles to the four project sites and installed poles at the Kings River Preserve. The other three site installations were handled by a general contractor.

"A graduate student from UCA placed acoustic monitors at the project sites to determine if bats are in those areas," Cain said. "So, far the monitors have detected positive results indicating bat population. The student will monitor these sites for the next two years."

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative, provides wholesale electricity to Arkansas' 17 distribution cooperatives that provide electricity to approximately 500,000 homes, farms and businesses in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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